

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 12-18, 20-32, and 34-43 are pending in the present application as currently amended. Claims 3, 11, 19, and 33 have been canceled, and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 30, respectively. Also, claims 20 and 34 have been amended to adjust dependencies. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16-18, 20-32, and 34-43 under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by Duphorne (U.S. Patent No. 6,212,265). Applicants respectfully traverse the Section 102 rejection insofar as it may be applied to the claims as amended.

Independent claim 1 as amended to include the subject matter of now-canceled claim 3 recites a computing device for receiving notification of a new incoming message at a message server and for retrieving the message from the message server. The computing device includes a communications device for coupling with a communications line, where the communications line is coupled to a communications system which in turn is coupled to the message server. The communications device implements an on-hook signaling protocol for receiving data sent when the communications line is on-hook, and the received data including the notification of the new incoming message. Significantly, and as newly recited in claim 1, the computing device in response to the notification of the new incoming message employs the communications device thereof, the communications line, and the communications network to contact the message server and retrieve the new incoming message from such message server.

Independent claim 9 as amended to include the subject matter of now-canceled claim 11 recites substantially the same subject matter as claim 1, albeit in the form of a method.

The Duphorne reference discloses a electronic mail (email) notification system wherein a telephone line user having a Caller ID service and Caller ID device receives notification as displayed on such Caller ID device when an email is available for such user from an email server. The notification is sent by the telephone system which operates such telephone line, where the telephone system periodically queries the email server to determine whether any email is available, and if so in fact sends the notification to the Caller ID device which displays same to the user.

However, the Duphorne Caller ID device is merely disclosed as a 'small structure' that can include an alert indicator (Column 7, lines 11-25). More to the point, such Duphorne Caller ID device is not disclosed as a computing device which in response to the notification of the new incoming message employs the communications device thereof, the communications line, and the communications network to contact the email server and retrieve the new incoming message from such email server, as is required by claims 1 and 9. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Duphorne reference does not anticipate claims 1 or 9 or any claims depending therefrom, including claims 2, 4-7, 10, and 12-14.

Independent claim 16 as amended to include the subject matter of now-canceled claim 19 recites a system for notifying a computing device of an incoming message. In the system, a message server is coupled to a data communications network for receiving the incoming message, a public communications system is coupled to the message server, where the message server securely communicates to the communications system that the incoming message awaits retrieval by the computing device, and a communications line is coupled to

the communications system and to the computing device, where the communications system signals the computing device over the communications line that the incoming message awaits retrieval by such computing device. Significantly, the incoming message includes a destination address associated with the computing device, the communications line is identified by an identifier, and the system further comprises a database associating the destination address with the identifier. Thus, the message server accesses the database and determines the identifier based on the destination address and communicates to the communications system that the incoming message awaits retrieval by the computing device at the communications line as identified by the identifier.

Independent claim 30 as amended to include the subject matter of now-canceled claim 33 recites substantially the same subject matter as claim 1, albeit in the form of a method.

The Duphorne reference discloses that the email server thereof may be part of the telephone system and that the email address may include the telephone number of the user (Column 10, lines 50-66). However, and significantly, the Duphorne reference does not disclose that the email server accesses a database that associates a destination address of an email with an identifier of the telephone line so that the email message server can access the database and determine an identifier based on an email destination address and communicate to the telephone system that the incoming message awaits retrieval by the computing device at the communications line as identified by the identifier, all as required by claims 16 and 30. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Duphorne reference does not anticipate claims 16 or 30 or any claims depending therefrom, including claims 17, 18, 20-29, 31, 32, and 34-43.

DOCKET NO.: BELL-0023/99213
Application No.: 09/736,631
Office Action Dated: June 6, 2003

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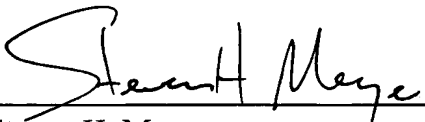
Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102 rejection.

The Examiner has rejected claims 8 and 15 under 35 USC § 103 as being obvious over the Duphorne reference in view of Paarsmarkt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,118,856). Applicants respectfully traverse the Section 103 rejection insofar as it may be applied to the claims as amended.

Applicants respectfully submit that since independent claims 1 and 9 have been shown to be unanticipated and are non-obvious, then so too must all claims depending therefrom be unanticipated and non-obvious, including claims 8 and 15, at least by their dependencies. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 103 rejection.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Date: September 8, 2003


Steven H. Meyer
Registration No. 37,189

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439